SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, it is totally wrong to lay allegations that the sportsmen participating in the Los Angeles Olympics have been asked to individually deposit the money.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: I am a member of the Atheletic Federation and I know that they have asked each athelete to deposit Rs. 17,000/-.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, although Question Hour is over I would like to remove the doubts lingering in the minds of hon. Members, the atheletes have been trained properly by IOA and sent to Los Angles Olympics. So far as the meeting the passage cost of atheletes is concerned, the Government is footing the bill amounting to Rs. 8 lakhs.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: You are meeting the passage cost of officials or atheletes.

MR CHAIRMAN: Have you taken any money from them?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, the Government has not taken any money from the atheletes.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir the Minister is denying on the floor of the House.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, I am emphatically denying that the Government has not taken any money from the atheletes.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, if the Minister is denying then I will bring a privilege motion in this House.

MR CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Circus Groups in the Country

*182. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of circus groups operating in the country;

(b) what is the number of persons employed by these groups or companies;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to give financial assistance to these groups/companies, if so, the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there is also any proposal to introduce a group insurance scheme for the circus employees?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d) According to information received from the Indian Circus Federation, there are 21 Circus Groups affiliated to it, which employ about 200 to 400 persons each for various jobs and as performing artists. No information is available about those circus troupes which are not members of the ndian Circus Federation.

Government are already rendering assistance in the matter of grant of railway concession for movement of troupes, exemption by State Governments from payment of entertainment tax, allotment of open grounds at concessional rents, and temporary allotment of quotas of food grains and other essential commodities at fair price. All these are intended to provide financial relief to the Circus troupes.

No proposal has been received for introducing group insurance for Circus employees. In case such a proposal is received from the Indian Circus Federation and/or the Circus Employees Association, it will be given due consideration.

Census of sodium silicate industry

†*186. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken or proposed to undertake a

†Previously Starred Question No. 106, transferred from 30th July, 1984.